



INDEPENDENCE

★ UTILITIES ★



Spring chore and weather safety

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April showers bring May flowers, and mowing, and floods, and chores. Spring is a busy season. In this month's newsletter we share a few tips to keep you and your household protected from floods; share safety tips when trimming those trees around power lines; look at how to keep everyone safe as you mow your lawn; and more. Take a few minutes to read this month's articles while you enjoy a refreshing glass of our delicious Independence water between chores!



Flood Season- Before a Flood

April showers can sometimes bring flooding for our area. It is important to prepare ahead of time and stay in the know before flood season impacts you. Keep in mind the following tips:

- Review where your electric fuse box (breaker), water service mains and natural gas mains are located and how to turn them off, if necessary;
- Install a battery-powered sump pump or check on your existing one;
- Store basement items 1 foot off the floor; and
- Ensure gutters and downspouts drain properly and water is directed away from your home.

Flood Insurance Information

Flooding can result in property damage and generally most homeowners' insurances do not cover flooding. Stay ahead of flood waters and find out further information about flood insurance. The City of Independence is a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Owners and renters may insure their personal property against flood loss. A policy must be purchased by a licensed property insurance agent or broker.

To determine if you are at risk for flooding visit floodsmart.gov or contact the City of Independence's Municipal Services Department at (816) 325-7614.

Grass Clippings and Storm Drains Don't Mix

Spring is in full swing which means mowing season is upon us. This is a friendly reminder to avoid blowing or sweeping grass clippings into the street. Any grass clippings that are in the street eventually end up in a storm drain where they can build up and cause drainage problems and flooding. The grass clippings can also be problematic for cyclists and motorcyclists, causing a slippery surface.

Chapter 7, Article 8, of the City of Independence City Code provides further information about regulations related to polluting any waters within the State, including streams and creeks. This information is available on the City's website, indep.us or you can contact Municipal Services at (816) 325-7711.

Please keep grass clippings in your yard. Here are some solutions:
Mulch the grass clippings to provide fertilizer for your yard

If your mower shoots grass clippings out of the side, mow a few times with the blower pointing towards your yard and not in the street

Are you ready for severe weather?

Sign-up for alerts when severe weather comes to our area. Get started at indep.us/weatheralerts



Sign up to receive text, email, and phone alerts from the City's Emergency Preparedness Division at indep.us/weatheralerts

Tree Trimming Safety and Power Lines

As you continue to do spring cleaning around your house and yard, it is important to take extra precautions when trimming and pruning your trees. Power lines are likely nearby and can be a deadly hazard. Follow these precautions to reduce your chances of serious injury and death:

- Do a hazard assessment of the work area before you begin to trim or prune your trees.
- Always maintain at least 10 feet distance from overhead power lines, especially if you are using metal equipment.
- Never turn your back on any falling limbs, branches, or trees.
- Use a dry fiberglass or wooden ladder, never a metal ladder when working near power lines.
- If you have trees that are growing too close to power lines, reach out to a certified arborist to help you prune them.



Drop-off Depot

875 Vista Avenue 8AM-3PM 2nd Saturday April - October



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SPRING DONATION DRIVE



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COMMUNITY
SERVICES
LEAGUE

Spring Donation Drive

Save the date, our May Donation Drive is coming up on May 10th from 3:30PM to 6:30PM at the Independence Uptown Market.

Community Services League in partnership with the City of Independence Utilities Department is sponsoring this donation drive and collecting personal hygiene items, such as new, unopened shampoo, deodorant, lotion, over-the-counter medicines and diapers.

Your donation will help ensure that Community Services League can help provide for families in Eastern Jackson County as our students enter summer break.



Want more information on community events, programs, and local stories? Sign-up for the Independence CityScene Newsletter and you can get the latest in your inbox at the beginning of each month.

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